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THE GENUINE

TRIAL

OF

MARGERY BEDDINGFIELD

AND

RICHARD RINGE,

BEFORE

The Honourable Sir RICHARD ADAMS, Knt.

One of the Barons of his Majesty's Court of EXCHEQUER:

AT THE

Assizes held at BURY ST. EDMUND'S, in the County of SUFFOLK,

On Monday the Twenty-first of MARCH, 1763:

FOR

PETTY TREASON and MURDER

Committed on JOHN BEDDINGFIELD, late of *Sternfield*, in the County of *Suffolk*, Farmer, late the Husband of the said MARGERY, and the Master of the said RICHARD RINGE.

Carefully taken in Court, by an eminent Short-Hand Writer.

LONDON:

Printed for L. DAVIS and C. REYMERS, against Gray's-Inn Gate, Holborn. 1763.

[Price ONE SHILLING.]

THE GENUINE TRIAL OF MARGERY BEDDINGFIELD AND RICHARD RINGE,

FOR

Petty Treaſon and Murder, committed on *John Beddingfield*, late of *Sternfield*, in the County of *Suffolk*, Farmer.

MVSEVM BRITANNICVM

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1763.

THE priſoners being ſet to the bar, were arraigned as follows.

Clerk of Arraigns.] *Richard Ringe*, hold up your hand.

Margery Beddingfield, hold up your hand.

Richard Ringe, you ſtand indicted by the name of *Richard Ringe*, late of the pariſh of *Sternfield*, in the county of *Suffolk*, Labourer, late ſervant of *John Bed-*

dingfield, late of the ſame, Yeoman, deceaſed; and you *Margery Beddingfield*, by the name of *Margery Beddingfield*, late of the ſame place, widow, late wife of the ſaid *John Beddingfield*; for that ye, not having God before your eyes, but being moved and ſeduced by the inſtigation of the Devil, on the twenty-ſeventh day of *July*, in the ſecond year of the reign of our ſovereign lord *George* the third, king of *Great-Britain*, and ſo forth, with force and arms, at the pariſh aforeſaid, in the county aforeſaid, in and upon the ſaid *John*, in the peace of God and our ſaid lord the king, then and there being, feloniouſly, traiterouſly, wilfully, and of your malice aforethought, did make an aſſault (he the ſaid *John* then and there being the maſter of you the ſaid *Richard*, and alſo then and there being the husband of you the ſaid *Margery*.) And that you the ſaid *Richard*, both your hands about the neck of the ſaid *John*, then and there did fix and faſten; and you the ſaid *Richard*, with both your hands ſo as aforeſaid fixed and faſtened about the neck of the ſaid *John*, him the ſaid *John* then and there feloniouſly, traitorouſly, wilfully, and of your malice aforethought, did choak and ſtrangle, of which ſaid choaking and ſtrangling the ſaid *John* then and there inſtantly died. And that you the ſaid *Margery*, at the time of the felony, treaſon, and murder aforeſaid, by the ſaid *Richard*, in manner and form aforeſaid, feloniouſly, traitorouſly, wilfully, and of his malice aforethought, done and committed at the pariſh aforeſaid, in the county aforeſaid, feloniouſly, traitorouſly, wilfully, and of your malice aforethought, was preſent, aiding, abetting, aſſiſting, and maintaining the ſaid *Richard*, the felony, treaſon, and murder aforeſaid, in manner and form aforeſaid, to do and commit. And that ye the ſaid *Richard* and *Margery*, him the ſaid *John* then and there being the maſter of you the ſaid *Richard*, and alſo then and there being the husband of you the ſaid *Margery*, in manner and form aforeſaid, feloniouſly, traitorouſly, wilfully, and of your malice

afore-

aforethought, did kill and murder, againſt the peace of our ſaid lord the king, his crown and dignity.

How ſay you, *Richard Ringe*, are you guilty of the felony, treaſon, and murder, whereof you ſtand indicted, or not guilty?

Priſoner.] Not guilty.

Clerk of Arraigns.] Culprit, how will you be tried?

Priſoner.] By God and my country.

Clerk of Arraigns.] God ſend you a good deliverance.

How ſay you, *Margery Beddingfield*, are you guilty of the felony, treaſon, and murder, whereof you ſtand indicted, or not guilty?

Priſoner.] Not guilty.

Clerk of Arraigns.] Culprit, how will you be tried?

Priſoner.] By God and my country.

Clerk of Arraigns.] God ſend you a good deliverance.

Then Clerk of Arraigns gave them their challenges as follows:

You the priſoners at the bar, theſe good men whom you ſhall hear called, and perſonally do appear, are to paſs between our ſovereign lord the king and you, upon the trials of your ſeveral lives and deaths; therefore, if you will challenge them, or any of them, your time is to ſpeak to them as they come to the book to be ſworn, and before they are ſworn, and you will be heard.

George Waller
William Criſpe
Wm. Johnſon, the younger
Daniel Clarke
Thomas Hendy
John Goodwyn
Thomas Clouting
John Ralph
Charles Bilney
Charles Lee
Barnaby Gibſon, *and*
Jeremiah Hayward

} *Jurors.*

Jurors

Jurors Oath.

You ſhall well and truly try, and true deliverance make, between our ſovereign lord the king and the priſoners at the bar, whom you ſhall have in charge, and a true verdict give according to the evidence.

So help you GOD.

Cryer made Proclamation.

Cryer.] *Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!* If any one can inform my lords, the king's juſtices, the king's ſerjeant, the king's attorney, or this inqueſt now to be taken between our ſovereign lord the king and the priſoners at the bar, of any treaſons, murders, felonies, or other miſdemeanors, done or committed by the priſoners at the bar, let them come forth and they ſhall be heard, for now the priſoners ſtand at the bar upon their deliverance; and all perſons bound by recognizance to proſecute, and give evidence againſt the priſoners at the bar, let them come forth, proſecute, and give their evidence, or they will forfeit their recognizance.

Then Clerk of Arraigns charges the jury as follows,

Richard Ringe, hold up your hand.

Margery Beddingfield, hold up your hand.

Gentlemen of the Jury,

Look upon the priſoners, and hearken to their charge. They ſtand indicted by the names of *Richard Ringe*, late of the pariſh of *Sternfield*, in the county of *Suffolk*, labourer, late ſervant of *John Beddingfield*, late of the ſame place, yeoman, deceaſed, and *Margery Beddingfield*, late of the ſame place, widow, late wife of the ſaid *John Beddingfield*, for that they, not having the fear of God before their eyes, but being moved and ſeduced by the inſtigation of the Devil, on the twenty-ſeventh day of *July*, in the ſecond year of the reign of his preſent majeſty, with force and arms, at the pariſh aforeſaid, in the county aforeſaid, in and upon the ſaid *John*, in the peace of God and our ſaid lord the king, then and there being, felonioufly, traitorouſly, wilfully,

and

and of their malice aforethought, did make an aſſault (he, the ſaid *John*, then and there being the maſter of the ſaid *Richard*, and alſo then and there being the husband of the ſaid *Margery*.) And that the ſaid *Richard* both his hands about the neck of the ſaid *John* then and there did fix and faſten, and he the ſaid *Richard*, with both his hands ſo as aforeſaid fixed and faſtened about the neck of the ſaid *John*, him, the ſaid *John*, then and there felonioufly, traitorouſly, wilfully, and of his malice aforethought, did choak and ſtrangle, of which ſaid choaking and ſtrangling, the ſaid *John* then and there inſtantly died. And that ſhe, the ſaid *Margery*, at the time of the felony, treaſon, and murder aforeſaid, by the ſaid *Richard*, in manner and form aforeſaid, felonioufly, traitorouſly, wilfully, and of his malice aforethought, done and committed at the pariſh aforeſaid, in the county aforeſaid, felonioufly, traitorouſly, wilfully, and of her malice aforethought, was preſent, aiding, abetting, aſſiſting, and maintaining the ſaid *Richard*, the felony, treaſon, and murder aforeſaid, in manner and form aforeſaid, to do and commit. And that they, the ſaid *Richard* and *Margery*, him the ſaid *John*, then and there being the maſter of the ſaid *Richard*, and alſo then and there being the husband of the ſaid *Margery*, in manner and form aforeſaid, felonioufly, traitorouſly, wilfully, and of their malice aforethought, did kill and murder, againſt the peace of our ſaid lord the king, his crown and dignity.

Upon this indictment, they have ſeverally been arraigned, and, upon their arraignment, have ſeverally pleaded they are not guilty; your charge, therefore, is to enquire, whether they be guilty or not, and hearken to the evidence.

Evidence

Evidence for the King.

ELIZABETH CLEOBALD, *Sworn.*

SAYS, that ſhe was ſervant to the deceaſed, *John Beddingfield*, and went to live with him at *Michaelmas* was a twelvemonth. That on the twenty-ſeventh of *July* laſt, the time he died, there alſo lived with him *Elizabeth Riches*; *Richard Ringe*, one of the priſoners at the bar; *William Maſterſon*, and *John Nunn*, a boy of ten years old. That *Ringe* came to live with the deceaſed at the ſame time with her. That ſhe was nurſe-maid. That the deceaſed had then two children living by his wife (now a priſoner at the bar) one of them died ſoon after ſhe went. That ſhe had ſeen *Ringe* uſe familiarities.

Mr. *Serjeant Forſter*, [for the Priſoner *Beddingfield*.]

My Lord,

We object to any evidence of familiarities, it is out of the queſtion now.

The objection was over-ruled, they being circumſtances tending to prove her conſenting and abetting.

Witneſs.

Ringe and my miſtreſs were frequently together when my maſter was out. They uſed to be alone in the kitchen when all the other ſervants were out. It uſed to be after dinner, when I uſed to be in the back kitchen.

If my maſter was not at home, then *Ringe* would be along with my miſtreſs till two o'clock. He uſed to come home to dinner at twelve, from the fields where he

he worked. One night I ſat up to brew. My miſtreſs ſat up. I went in to ſee what was o'clock, and my miſtreſs was ſitting upon *Richard*'s lap. This was two or three months before my maſter's death.

Another time, my maſter was out, and I ſaw my miſtreſs writing a letter. She deſired me to carry it to *Richard*. I carried it. He was in bed. It was in the morning. This was between the time of the brewing, and my maſter's death.

Another time I went into the kitchen-chamber, my miſtreſs was putting her cap on. She deſired me to put her ear-rings in. She ſaid it would not be long before ſhe would want a pair of black ear-rings. *Richard* upon this ſaid to her, are you going into mourning for the devil?

I left them two in the room. My maſter was gone to the next town.

One day ſhe ſaid, ſomebody would die before *Michaelmas*. She thought it would be my maſter. I ſaid I cannot tell how long my maſter will live. My miſtreſs ſaid, Why do you think he will not die before then? I ſaid, I cannot tell how long my maſter has to live.

I ſaw *Richard* kiſs my miſtreſs: this was a little time before my maſter's death.

My maſter died the twenty-ſeventh of *July*, in the night.

I lay with my miſtreſs in the kitchen-chamber. She had lain two nights from my maſter. He lay in the parlour-chamber, which is next the kitchen-chamber. Theſe are at the other end of the houſe from where the reſt lay. The parlour-chamber is over the parlour, you go through the kitchen-chamber to go into the parlour-chamber. My miſtreſs and I went to bed. my miſtreſs went to bed firſt. My maſter was below with *Scarlet*, a butcher, drinking ſome punch.

I ſaw my maſter come into the kitchen-chamber. We went to bed about ten. My maſter deſired my miſtreſs to lye in the parlour-chamber. She ſaid ſhe would not lie there. My maſter deſired her. Then he went into the parlour-chamber, and got his cap, and came in again, and ſaid to my miſtreſs, 'I did not tell you where I would lie, I ſaid I would not lie there.' They wiſhed one another good night. He went into the parlour-chamber. I never ſaw him again alive. *Betty Riches*, my partner, ſat up, to light my maſter up to bed. She came up with my maſter, lighted him up ſtairs. She ſtaid in the kitchen-chamber till my maſter went into the parlour-chamber, and they bid one another good night.

After they had bid one another good night, my maſter went into the parlour-chamber. The door of that chamber was left open. *Elizabeth Riches* went into the backhouſe-chamber. My maſter ſeemed to be in health; I never ſaw him ill but of a cold. He was twenty-four years of age. He was a thin man, not very lean, a ſmall man.

After my maſter was gone, I fell aſleep, I was up all the night before. I was taken with ſleep. My miſtreſs waked me between eleven and twelve. My miſtreſs *fared* * frightened, and ſaid, what is the matter. I begged her to get up. I was very much ſurprized at the noiſe I heard in the parlour-chamber. It appeared as if ſomebody was in great diſtreſs in the parlour-chamber. It appeared as if ſomebody was in agony. I was frightened at the noiſe. It was a ſhrieking noiſe. I heard the noiſe the moment I waked. It did not laſt above a minute or two. I begged my miſtreſs

to

* A word uſed in that country for *ſeemed*.

to get up. —— She ſaid, we had better lay ſtill. We both *laid* ſtill.

After this, I ſaw *Richard*, not above a minute or two after I was awaked. I heard a noiſe. *Richard* came into the room. I ſaw him on that ſide of the bed where my miſtreſs lay; there was no light in the room. I knew it was *Richard*. I knew him by his ſpeech. When I juſt ſaw him, I raiſed myſelf in bed, and ſaid, Maſter! He ſaid, hold your tongue; does any body know it but you two? I think my miſtreſs anſwered No. *Richard* ſaid, he is dead, and now I am eaſy. My miſtreſs ſaid, is he? I ſaid to him, how came you here? He anſwered, I was forced to it. *Richard* ſtayed in the room till we had got ſome of our cloaths on, and we had the reſt in our hands. Then *Richard* ſaid, he would go to his own chamber, to be called up, and went down ſtairs. Neither my miſtreſs nor I went into the parlour-chamber before we went down. I think the parlour-chamber door was open.

The head of my maſter's bed was againſt the wall that parted the two chambers. My maſter's bed was cloſe againſt the door. Our bed was about three yards from his, over the kitchen, and his over the parlour, and it was about as big as the ſquare in this court. My miſtreſs and I went to the backhouſe-chamber, where *Riches* lay; it is acroſs the landing-place, in coming out of the kitchen-chamber. My miſtreſs ſaid, *Betty*, never diſcover. I ſaid no. *Elizabeth Riches* was called up. We were almoſt dreſſed. My miſtreſs ſaid, *Betty*, go call up *Richard*, ſomething is the matter with your maſter. There was a wall between her room and *Richard*'s room, a mortar wall. *Elizabeth Riches* called *Richard*. She called him again. He ſaid, what the Devil is the matter with you now? *Elizabeth Riches* begged him to get up and come away. His chamber was over the backhouſe. He got a tinder-

box, and came into the backhouſe-chamber, and ſtruck a light. When he came into the backhouſe-chamber he had his clothes on. My miſtreſs deſired him to go and look into the parlour-chamber, ſhe believed ſomething was the matter with his maſter. He did go, and in a little time, came back, and ſaid his maſter was dead. My miſtreſs ſeemed uneaſy, and laid down on the bed with her cloaths on, till almoſt morning. My miſtreſs, *Richard*, or ſomebody, ſent *William Maſterſon* to fetch my maſter's mother, who came before it was light. *Ringe* went a ſecond time into his maſter's room with *Elizabeth Riches*. When my maſter's mother came, ſhe aſked, has the doctor been ſent for? My miſtreſs anſwered, if he is dead, what ſignifies ſending for the doctor?

The next forenoon I ſaw my maſter, he was laid out, and a ſheet thrown over him; over his face. I turned it down, and looked at him. His face was black, and his throat and his neck quite round. The next day the coroner came, I was examined before him, and ſpoke of hearing the groans, but ſaid nothing of *Ringe*, becauſe, as I was to ſtay in the place till *Michaelmas*, was afraid my miſtreſs would uſe me ill. I continued till a week and three days before old *Michaelmas* day, when it was diſcovered, at the time of *Saxmundham* Seſſions. My miſtreſs then ſaid to me, *Betty*, have you told any body what you ſaw and heard between *Richard* and I, touching your maſter, on account of his death? I ſaid yes: She ſaid, to whom? I ſaid, to my mother and *Elizabeth Riches*. My miſtreſs ſaid to *Richard*, now *Richard*, you are done for, or hanged, or ſome ſuch words. I then repeated to her what had paſſed in the chamber. My miſtreſs ſaid, you need not ſay what chamber; a chamber is a chamber. I ſaid, yes, madam, it was the kitchen-chamber that *Richard* came into that night. Can you ſwear to *Richard*? I ſaid I could:

Richard

Richard was by then, and did not deny what I ſaid. My miſtreſs ſaid to me, did not you ſay you would not ſay any thing? I ſaid, yes, I ſaid as little as I could. I did not know but I ſhould have been ill uſed if I had told what I knew. My miſtreſs ſaid, to make yourſelf eaſy, you will ruin two for ever. I ſaid, if *Richard* never did my maſter any harm, he would not be ruined in the world to come, whatever might happen in this. My miſtreſs ſaid, yes, he muſt be ruined for ever, for he has not had time to repent. My maſter and miſtreſs lived happy together when I firſt went, and till my miſtreſs took to keeping company with *Richard*; after that they did not live ſo happy as they did before. *Richard* wanted me to go to *Saxmundham*, to have what I could ſay taken down, and for me to ſay what he would; but I refuſed. *Richard* aſked me if I would ſwear he murdered my maſter: I ſaid no, I ſhould be loth to ſay that, but I muſt ſpeak the truth.

Croſs Examined.

I ſhould have mentioned, that *Saxmundham* ſeſſions was on the *Thurſday*, I ſtayed till *Saturday*: my miſtreſs went away on *Thurſday*, and never returned till *Saturday*, and was taken up.

After this I heard my miſtreſs had taken a Vomit. *(Stopt.)*

Reply.

I ſaw *Richard* in the room after we got out of bed. Nothing was ſaid before the coroner, how my maſter came by his death. I was aſked whether my maſter went to bed as uſual?

ELI-

ELIZABETH RICHES *ſworn.*

I lived with the deceaſed, *John Beddingfield*, a year all but a fortnight; one night *Richard* was ſitting up for my maſter, my miſtreſs was gone to bed, *Richard* ſaid, he would get ſome poiſon, if I would poiſon my maſter, by putting it into his rum and milk, which he drank for breakfaſt. I told him I would not do it. He ſaid he would be a friend to me as long as I lived, if I would do it, and nobody would never know it, if I did not ſpeak of it. I ſaid, if it was hid in this world, it would not be hid in the world to come. He ſaid I might give it my maſter, he would ſwell, he would not die immediately.

Richard and my miſtreſs kept company together, they met together, ſhe has ſat upon his lap when my maſter has been from home. One night I ſaw him kiſs her three times in the back-houſe, and in the kitchen, I have ſeen him in her bed-chamber.

I was ordered by my miſtreſs to watch, when they two were together, more than once, ſometimes o'nights, and ſometimes o'days. Once my miſtreſs was writing—— She told me ſhe was writing to *Richard*. My maſter was walking in the fields, ſhe directed me to watch. My maſter was coming, and ſhe whipt up the letter, and put it into her pocket.

My maſter was to take a vomit about two months before his death. My maſter had a cold. They had told him they would have him take a vomit. He took it in a china cup.

My maſter was gone to the plough. *Richard* brought the water in a little pudding-cup *(ſtopt.)* My maſter was a healthy man——never heard he had any fit.

On the twenty-ſeventh of *July*, my maſter aſked to lie with my miſtreſs——She ſaid no. My maſter went into

into the parlour-chamber, put on his cap, and came back again. They wiſhed one another good night, and my maſter went to the parlour-chamber. Afterwards I heard a little noiſe, I could not tell what it was, like as if children were crying. Then my miſtreſs and *Elizabeth Cleobald* came into the room. My miſtreſs ordered me to call *Richard*; he lay in the next room to me, ſo did *William Maſterſon*; they lay in the ſame room, and a young boy. I ſat up in the bed, and called *Richard*, for God's ſake get up. He ſaid, what the devil is the matter with you now? *Richard* lighted a candle, and went to my maſter; he came back, and ſaid he was dead. I ſaid, ſurely no. My miſtreſs ſaid, hold your tongue; it was enough to hurry her. I then went in with him, and found my maſter lying upon the floor, on the further ſide of the bed, he was upon the floor. His head lay at the foot of the bed. He lay upon his ſtomach. His ſhirt was on. There were two buttons off his ſhirt neck, it was rent out of the gathers. I did not obſerve this myſelf, *Richard* told me ſo. There was a little ſcar upon his neck, it was black before, and ſwelled. I ſaw his face that night, and his neck. The bed-curtain was down, and the rod was bent. The rod was not bent before. I ſaw it the day before, and it was not bent.

Witneſs.

Richard ſaid, my maſter is dead.

I ſaid, if I had ſaid to you, what you have ſaid to to me, I ſhould have been afraid of going into the room alone, for fear my maſter ſhould appear again.

Mr. Baron ADAMS.

Q. Did you obſerve whether the collar of the ſhirt was buttoned?

A. I

A. I cannot tell that.

Council.

Q. You came back into the room?

A. Yes.

Q. Had you and *Richard* any converſation in coming back?

A. No.

Q. Did you ſtay in the room with your miſtreſs till the morning?

A. Yes.

Q. Did *Richard?*

A. No; he went down, and came up again. *Richard* called *Wm. Maſterſon* up.

Q. When you was ordered by your miſtreſs to call *Richard*, did he anſwer the firſt call?

A. I cannot tell: I believe he did not.

Q. In the morning, at day break, what did your miſtreſs ſay?

A. That I muſt go about my work again, if my maſter was dead.

Q. Have you had any converſation with your miſtreſs, or *Richard*, in relation to this affair ſince?

A. I don't recollect any.

Q. After your maſter was dead, had you any talk about this poiſon buſineſs?

A. She told me after ſhe had ſpoke of it, the ſeſſions day ſhe came up ſtairs.

Q. The ſeſſions day at *Saxmundham?*

A. Yes.

Q. What did *Richard* ſay?

A. He aſked me what I had ſaid about it. I told him it was about the poiſon. He had offered me to give poiſon to my maſter. I did not know that the fellow was

was in the room till juſt before the *Saxmundham* ſeſſions, when *Elizabeth Cleobald* told me of it.

Q. In what manner did ſhe tell it?

A. Juſt as ſhe has told it you. I told him *(Richard)* that I had told *Elizabeth Cleobald* about the poiſon. He ſaid he did not know he had ſaid ſuch a thing. I told him, if it came to a head he muſt know then. He bid me hold my tongue. He had had enough ſaid to him about it.

Q. You was in the back-houſe with your partner when ſhe was beckoned into the ſhop by your miſtreſs?

A. Yes.

Q. In what manner was it?

A. The fellow beekoned her to come into the ſhop.

Q. Was you examined before the coroner?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you mention it to the coroner?

A. No; I was afraid.

Q. Of what?

A. I was afraid my miſtreſs would uſe me ill.

Defendants Council.

Q. During the time you lived in this family, how did Mr. *Beddingfield* and wife live together?

A. They lived very well together till ſhe got acquainted with that fellow.

Q. The room was that where you and your fellow ſervant uſed to lie?

A. No.

Q. How long was that after you had left your miſtreſs's room, before your miſtreſs came again?

A. I cannot ſay; not quite an hour.

Q. Better than half an hour?

A. Yes.

Q. When

Q. When your miſtreſs lay in this room, did one of your maids lie with her?

A. Yes.

Q. You went up with your maſter. Did you obſerve any thing, with regard to your maſter's chamber, after he went in?

A. I went into the kitchen, and he went into the parlour-chamber.

Q. The laſt time did you ſee your maſter go in?

A. No.

Q. Had he candle with him?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you tell whether the door was open?

A. No.

Q. Your maſter was a young man?

A. Yes.

Q. Of ill health?

A. No; he was out of order.

Q. What age was he?

A. Twenty-four.

Q. How far was the room you lay in from the kitchen-chamber.

A. Some diſtance.

Q. One end of your room comes to the partition that divides the kitchen and the parlour-chambers?

A. Yes.

Q. If any body had called out with a loud voice there, ſhould not you have heard?

A. No, I did not.

Q. If they had called with a loud voice, ſhould you have heard?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you hear any thing?

A. I heard a little.

Q. How long did you hear that before your miſtreſs and *Cleobald* came in?

A. Not

A. Not long.

Q. When the coroner came, what did he come for?

A. I cannot ſay. The coroner ſhould come for murder.

Q. To enquire whether there was a murder?

A. Yes.

Q. You underſtood that?

A. Yes.

Q. Was you ſwore?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you remember the oath?

A. No.

Q. Was it to ſpeak the whole truth?

A. I believe it was.

Q. How came it that you did not tell every thing you knew?

A. I did tell him to the beſt of my knowledge it was done that night.

Q. Before this, had you communicated any thing to your fellow ſervant?

A. No.

Q. Did you tell the jury any ſuſpicions you had about your maſter's death?

A. I told them afterwards to the juſtice.

Q. How came you not to be afraid before the juſtice?

A. My miſtreſs had ſuch a ſpirit, I was afraid ſhe would uſe me ill.

Q. Mrs. *Chobald* has had no talk with you?

A. No.

Q. You never had any converſation with her ſolely?

A. No.

Mr. Baron ADAMS.

Q. You ſay your maſter was lying upon his face?

A. Yes.

Q. Was he lying ſtrait along?

A. Yes.

Q. His legs were not crumpled under him?

A. No.

Q. Where were his arms?

A. They lay before him. One hand was about his throat, the other under him.

Q. You have ſpoke of the curtain of the bed being down, and of the curtain-rod being bent; in what condition were the bed cloaths?

A. They were turned down.

Q. The whole breadth of the bed?

A. No; part.

Q. Juſt as if a man had got out of bed, and had turned them down?

A. Yes. The coverlid was rumpled at the feet.

Q. Drawn off at the feet?

A. No.

Q. The reſt of the cloaths were turned on one ſide, as people do when they get out of bed?

A. Yes.

WILLIAM MASTERSON *ſworn.*

Q. You was ſervant to Mr. *Beddingfield*, the deceaſed?

A. Yes.

Q. When did you come to him?

A. Laſt *Michaelmas* was a twelvemonth.

Q. How old are you now?

A. Turned of fourteen?

Q. What

Q. What buſineſs was you employed to do?

A. I was hired for a cow boy.

Q. You lay in the houſe, and dieted in the houſe?

A. Yes.

Q. You know the priſoners at the bar?

A. Yes.

Q. In the houſe where did you ſleep?

A. I lay with the fellow till the other boy came.

Q. In what chamber did you lie?

A. Next to the backhouſe chamber.

Q. There were two beds in it?

A. Yes.

Q. What is the other boy's name?

A. *Nunn.*

Q. What was he?

A. The cow boy after. Our bed's head ſtood to *Richard*'s bed ſide.

Q. At what time did you go to bed?

A. *Richard*, *Nunn*, and I went together.

Q. As ſoon as you came into the room, what did you do?

A. We undreſſed, the other boy and I.

Q. What did *Richard* do?

A. He went up with us.

Q. How long had the other boy and you been in the room before you was in bed?

A. We undreſſed, and went to bed directly.

Q. Did you lie there the whole night without interruption?

A. Between eleven and twelve I heard the maid call the man.

Q. Who did ſhe call?

A. For God's ſake, *Richard*, get up; ſomething is the matter with your maſter. *Richard* ſaid, what the devil is the matter with you now?

Q. How

Q. How long was he called?

A. He was down directly.

Q. How long after his anſwer, what the devil is the matter with you now?

A. She called again, and he turned out directly.

Q. How long did you lie before you ſaw any thing of him again?

A. In a quarter of an hour he came up with a candle.

Q. What did he ſay?

A. For God's ſake, *Will*, get up, and come down; your maſter has fallen out of bed, and has killed himſelf. I got up, and went into the parlour-chamber.

Q. Who was with you?

A. *Richard.*

Q. How was he dreſſed?

A. In a light coloured coat, ſhoes and breeches on. I followed him into my maſter's chamber.

Q. What did you ſee when you came into your maſter's chamber?

A. His face lay towards the bed. He lay with his body againſt the bed's feet. He lay upon his ſtomach.

Q. How did he appear?

A. With his hand in this manner. *(Witneſs deſcribes it with his hand on his throat.)*

Q. Where was the other hand?

A. Under his ſide. The bolſter and pillows were all upon the ground, at the foot of the bed.

Q. Were the bolſter and pillows on the bed?

A. Yes.

Q. And the tick and matting?

A. Yes.

Q. Where did the quilt and the ſheets lay?

A. Upon my maſter's feet. The end of the curtain

tain-rod lay upon the bedſide, and the other where it ſhould be.

Q. Did you touch your maſter?

A. Yes.

Q. Was he cold?

A. He juſt began to grow cool. His legs from the ancle were pretty tidily ſtiff. I helped *Richard* to lay my maſter's body upon the bed.

Q. Who took hold of his head?

A. The fellow.

Q. And who of his feet?

A. I.

Q. You touched his legs?

A. Yes.

Q. Were they cool or warm?

A. Good tidily cool.

Q. He had a ſhirt on, did that cover him?

A. It did not cover him wholly: it was turned up, the flap towards his head. His ſhirt was turned up his back.

Q. How was the ſhirt?

A. Turned up from his back on to his ſhoulders.

Q. The lower flap was turned up to his head?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you ſee the collar?

A. Yes.

Q. Was it unbutton'd?

A. One button. It was unbuttoned: two buttons were off.

Q. Were any buttons left upon the floor?

A. No. The lower button was on, the two upper were off. I did not ſee the buttons.

Q. Did he look black?

A. Yes, tidily black.

Q. Did you ſee his neck?

A. Yes.

Q. How.

Q. How did it look?

A. Very black.

Q. Where?

A. All about the fore part.

Q. Did you ſee your maſter that day?

A. Yes, with Mr. *Scarlet*. He had been in the harveſt field, and had pitched a load of wheat. He was in very good health, and cool as ever I knew him.

Croſs Examination.

Q. Was there time enough between the firſt calling of *Richard*, and his going out, for him to put his cloaths on?

A. No.

Q. You was awake when he was firſt called?

A. Yes.

Q. How long was there between?

A. Two or three minutes.

Q. How long do you take in dreſſing?

A. I might be dreſſed in two or three minutes.

Q. Did you hear him go down ſtairs, or go into the next room?

A. He could not go into any room without going down ſtairs.

Q. How long was it before he came back?

A. A quarter of an hour.

Reply.

Q. You ſaid, after *Richard* anſwer'd, *What is the matter now?* he turned out directly?

A. They called again, and then he turned directly out.

Q. You was awake then?

A. Wide awake.

Q. Did

Q. Did he appear to dreſs himſelf?

A. No. As ſoon as he got upon the plancher, he went directly out of the room.

Q. The moment he was out of bed, he went down directly?

A. Yes.

Mr. Baron ADAMS.

The facts appear, do not let us infer a circumſtance of ſo great importance to the priſoner.

RICHES *called again.*

Q. When you went into the bed-room with *Richard*, you deſcribed the bed cloaths, and how they were turned down?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you ſee the bolſter and pillow at all?

A. No.

JAMES SCARLET *ſworn.*

Q. You was with Mr. *Beddingfield* on the night he died?

A. Yes.

Q. And bought a beaſt of him?

A. Yes.

Q. You drank with him that night?

A. Yes.

Q. Was he in good health?

A. Yes.

Q. What liquor did you drink with him?

A. Two little bowls of punch, between two and three pints.

Q. Did he drink the beſt part?

A. I had two glaſſes to his one.

Q. You had kept company with him?

A. Several times.

Croſs Examination.

Q. Was he as fit to defend his life and property as he had been at any time?

A. Yes, he was not drunk at all.

Mr. SPARHAM *ſworn.*

Q. You are a ſurgeon?

A. Yes.

Q. You was ſent for to attend the inquiſition that was had about Mr. *Beddingfield?*

A. Yes, at *Sternfield*, in *July*.

Q. On what day?

A. I don't remember; it was two days after he was dead.

Q. Who ſent for you?

A. Mr. *Edgar* deſired me to go and view the body with him; it was then about twelve, they were in great hurry; the jury had been there a long time, particularly the coroner had been there ſo long he wanted to go home.

Q. Did you ſee the body?

A. Mr. *Edgar* ſtood on one ſide of the bed, and I on the other; I turned the covering down pretty low to the waſte, I found no marks, only it was much ſwelled, as any dead body is.

Q. Did you go higher up in his body?

A. I viewed his neck; after that I was at a loſs. I ſaw ſuch marks as I never ſaw before. I have ſeen bodies from the hall, marked all round. Here were marks with fingers on the one ſide, and a thumb on the

the other, with ſcratches, as if it had been done with a perſon's nails.

Q. You had been uſed at *London* to ſee *ſubjects* with black marks, that had been hanged?

A. Yes, I was at a loſs then, becauſe it was not a round regular mark, but two.

Q. What was that?

A. Fingers on one ſide, a thumb on the other, with proper diſtances between each.

Q. How many fingers?

A. Three and a thumb.

Q. Any ſcratches?

A. Such as are made by the nails of a perſon. There was a ſlight redneſs upon the windpipe, but not ſuch as is made by fingers.

Q. If fingers were applied as you ſaw, to occaſion them, would a force applied to them have prevented a man from breathing?

A. A man could not do it himſelf; another might, by continuance, and by a perpetual ſqueezing.

Q. Suppoſe no reſiſtance is made, if a man takes another with his fingers in that manner, would it prevent his breathing?

A. Yes, if it was continued.

Q. Suppoſe a man was aſleep, and was ſeized in that manner, what would be his defence?

A. He could make very little.

Q. If a perſon held his breath, could he make any?

A. Very little.

Q. From what you ſaw of that ſubject, do you believe he died a natural death?

A. I think they were marks of violence.

Q. Do you think you ſaw marks enough to impute his death to violence?

A. Yes, by what I have heard ſince.

Q. Did theſe marks that you ſaw upon the neck, appear to be ſuch marks as probably might occaſion his death?

A. I don't know by what I'm to judge.

Q. Now do you think the marks of violence that you ſaw, were the probable cauſe of his death?

A. I really think ſo; I cannot poſitively ſay.

Croſs Examination.

Q. Did not the coroner tell you, you was ſent for to give your opinion to the jury, how this man came by his death?

A. I believe they told me; they did not ſwear me.

Q. What opinion did you give?

A. They told me his hand was under his throat, and the marks might come from the fingers and thumb, and not ſufficient to occaſion his death.

Q. Did you give an opinion that he died a natural death?

A. No, I cannot ſay I gave any opinion.

Mr. Baron ADAMS.

Q. You was ſent for to give your opinion?

A. At that time my opinion was, that as he lay with his hand ſo (*Witneſs ſhews how he lay*) his fingers might occaſion the impreſſion in his neck.

Q. Did you think ſo?

A. I cannot ſay I thought much about it.

Q. Did you think ſo then?

A. I did think ſo.

Croſs Examination.

Q. If you never had any ſuſpicious circumſtances to induce you to think there were acts of violence committed, ſhould you have changed your opinion?

A. I find I was out in my opinion. I thought ſo that evening. I thought I was too ſlender in my opinion. I thought I had been deficient in my judgment upon the report.

Q. Did you think it was the act of another perſon?

A. I did in the evening.

Q. If a man falls upon the floor from a bed, would not the fall occaſion that mark?

A. No, not ſhew itſelf in impreſſions black.

Mr. Baron ADAMS.

Q. Suppoſe a man is ſeized with an apoplexy, or any fit that occaſions his death, what appearance would the neck and face have?

A. In apoplexies they have froth in the mouth.

Q. Is the face ever black and ſwelled?

A. A little livid colour.

Q. Would not it be black?

A. No.

Q. Is there any ſudden death, natural death, that will give a man a blackneſs and ſwelling in the face?

A. No.

Q. Is there any kind of natural death that would occaſion the neck to appear black?

A. No.

Q. Suppoſe a vein broke in the neck, would it make the face and throat black?

A. No.

A. No.

Q. Did you ever know an inſtance?

A. No, I cannot think it.

Q. Is it in the power of any man who catches another, a ſtrong man in his ſleep, by the throat, to hold him long enough to throttle him?

A. Yes, the fingers were on the left ſide. I am not clear as to that.

Q. Are you clear that the marks of the fingers were diſtinct?

A. Yes.

Q. Were the marks of the fingers black?

A. Yes.

Q. What colour was the other ſwelling between theſe marks?

A. Reddiſh.

Q. How long did you view this body?

A. I was not there five minutes.

Q. Could not a man, thus ſeized, lift up his hand and put the other's away?

A. Yes.

Q. Suppoſe he had given him a turn, would that looſe him?

A. Yes, according to the ſtrength.

Mr. EDGAR *ſworn.*

Q. How long have you attended the hoſpital?

A. About four months.

Q. Do you remember a meſſage coming to your maſter (*Mr. Cooper*) from the coroner?

A. A man ſervant to Mr. *Long* came to my maſter's houſe (*Mr. Cooper of Saxmundham*) deſiring him to view the body.

Q. Was Mr. *Sparham* there?

A. I went to him.

Q. Was either of you ſworn?

A. No.

A. No.

Q. Were any queſtions aſked you by the coroner?

A. I don't know that I was aſked any queſtions.

Q. You examined the body?

A. Yes, his face and trunk too look'd black.

Q. Did the trunk look remarkably black?

A. I think it was preternatural, I never ſaw any thing ſo black.

Q. What other appearance?

A. Very diſtinct marks of a thumb and four fingers. I think the left.

Q. From the marks?

A. Yes.

Q. How?

A. From the left hand.

Q. How was the fleſh between?

A. Not ſo deep coloured.

Q. Were they ſufficient to occaſion a man's death?

A. Yes, by the continuation of the gripe.

Q. Upon view of the body, what is your opinion, did that perſon die a natural death, attended with ſuch marks upon the throat, or did he die a violent death?

A. It is very difficult to anſwer that; I ſhould be very diffident in anſwering that.

Q. Conſidering that the marks were not marks of a natural death?

A. No, certainly they were not. That preſſure would occaſion a perſon's death in a very few minutes.

Q. What is your opinion now?

A. I am afraid thoſe marks were of a ſufficient violence to occaſion the man's death.

Croſs

Croſs Examination, by WILLIAM WELLER, *of Council for Mrs.* BEDDINGFIELD.)

Q. Would a man in full health, twenty-four years old, continue to lie ſo ſtill, having both his hands at liberty, as that another could do this, is it probable any man could lie ſo ſtill?

A. If a man was taken in his ſleep, and a ſtrong man aſſaulted him in that manner, I ſhould think he had a very poor chance for his life.

Q. Could he keep his hand long enough?

A. His hand would go with him, and the gripe would continue.

Evidence for the King cloſed.

Mr. Serjeant FORSTER.

My Lord,

Two witneſſes are neceſſary to convict a perſon of petty treaſon.

1. *Ed.* 6 Ch: Part 22.
3. *Ed.* 6. Ch. 11.

The King againſt SWANN *and* JEFFRYS.

Not a witneſs has been examined in this caſe, that affects Mrs. *Beddingfield*, but *Elizabeth Cleobald.*

The priſoners cannot be found guilty of the murder, and acquitted of the petty treaſon.

Mr. Baron ADAMS.

Both the witneſſes *(the women)* have given circumſtantial evidence to affect her. They have both ſpoke of

of familiarities between the priſoners. The other evidence is to be left to the Jury.

(To the Priſoners.)

Richard Ringe, You have heard the accuſation againſt you, and the proof in ſupport of it; what have you to ſay in your defence?

Ringe.

My lord, My maſter was found with one hand round his neck, and he was lying flat upon his face. I went back and told my miſtreſs. She bid me go and call the boy up. The boy came with me, and we went on to the chamber. The boy ſaw him the ſame as I did, the bed things a-top of him. I am clear of the fact. *(Puts his hand upon his breaſt.)*

Mr. Baron ADAMS.

Margery Beddingfield, You have heard the accuſation againſt you, and the proof in ſupport of it, what have you to ſay in your defence?

Priſoner BEDDINGFIELD:

My Lord,

I know very little about it. My huſband went to bed about ten, I waked about eleven. I heard a noiſe, the maid ſaid there is a noiſe. I ſaid I had been monſtrouſly frightened in my ſleep. I ſaid, why did you not wake me before? I ſhould have got up. I went to where the children lay, and brought the tinder-box. *Richard* came on to the chamber, and ſaid, my maſter is dead.———I threw myſelf acroſs the bed, and lay till his mother and ſiſter came.

Evidence for the Priſoners.

Priſoners Council.

WILLIAM ALSTON *ſworn.*

Q. DID you know *John Beddingfield?*

A. Yes. I helped to lay him out.

Q. Did you ſee any marks of violence about him?

A. I ſaw marks of violence. I can't tell how they came.

Q. Did you ſee any bruiſes about his head or body?

A. I did not ſee any.

Q. How long had he been dead?

A. Three hours.

Q. What marks did you ſee?

A. On the ſide of his neck.

Q. What marks?

A. A kind of longiſh marks, about the breadth of a ſtraw, and looked reddiſh.

Q. On each ſide?

A. But on one ſide.

Q. There were no black marks?

A. No.

Q. How long had you known theſe two people?

A. I was day-man to him.

Q. Did there ſeem to be a good underſtanding between him and his wife? Did they live happily together?

A. Yes, as far as I ſaw.

Q. How often was you there?

A. Every day.

Q. You never heard them quarrel?

A. No.

A. No.

Q. Or any uneaſineſs between them?

A. No.

Q. You did not live in the houſe?

A. No.

Q. Or victual?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever hear him ſay any thing of *Richard?*

A. I heard Mr. *Beddingfield*, a little before he died, give *Richard* a very good word.

Q. How long did you know him?

A. My maſter? From *Whitſuntide* to his death.

Mr. Baron ADAMS.

Q. Did you ſee any thing like the marks of fingers and thumb?

A. I can't ſay when I laid him out. They appeared more afterwards.

Q. Did you ſee him afterwards?

A. Yes, at the coroner's inqueſt. They appeared fairer.

Q. Were they marks of fingers and thumb!

A. I did not take any obſervation of that.

Q. How many marks were there?

A. Two.

Q. What did they look like?

A. Juſt as if the blood was ſet in the ſkin.

WILLIAM STARKEY *ſworn.*

Q. You knew *John Beddingfield?*

A. Very well. I have known him ſix years. I never was at his houſe till within theſe two years. He

once offered me a chaiſe to go to Yarmouth; then I aſked them to dine. This was in *July* was a twelvemonth. Mrs. *Beddingfield* was with child. About ſeven or eight ſhe was in labour, and was brought to bed at my houſe. All the time ſhe was at my houſe, Mr. *Beddingfield* was as loving a huſband as ever I knew, and ſhe was the ſame to him.

JOHN GRIMMER *ſworn.*

Q. You knew *John Beddingfield?*

A. I married Mr. *Beddingfield*'s own aunt.

Q. You was well acquainted with him?

A. Yes. I was at the wedding.

Q. You know how they lived together; did they live happily together?

A. As ever I knew. I have been at their houſe, and they at mine. I never ſaw any thing to the contrary.

Q. How long had you ſeen him before his death?

A. The *Thurſday* before at *Saxmundham.*

Q. How long before his death was you at his houſe?

A. Ten days or a fortnight.

Q. How long did you ſtay the laſt time?

A. Three or four hours. I uſed to go and ſee them, and they to ſee me.

Mr. WILLIAM TOLLER *ſworn.*

Q. You knew *John Beddingfield?*

A. Yes. I did not know *Her* till after his death.

Q. How came you to know her?

A. She came to me about taking out adminiſtration to her husband. It was the latter end of *Auguſt*, or beginning of *September.*

Q. Was

Q. Was there any rumor in the country of there being any ſuſpicion touching the manner of his death?

A. Not at that time.

Q. Had you any converſation with her? *(ſtopt.)*

Q. Had ſhe, or this man, any opportunity of eſcaping?

A. She knew three or four hours before that there would be a warrant againſt her. I had heard it two or three days before. I told her there would be a warrant. I adviſed her to ſtay in the way.

After the evidence was ſummed up, the direction given to the jury was, that their firſt enquiry ſhould be as to *Ringe*, who is ſuppoſed to be the perſon who actually committed the fact; that if they ſhould think him not guilty, they muſt of courſe acquit *Beddingfield*, who does not appear upon the evidence to have been actually preſent in the ſame room at the time. But that if they ſhould believe *Ringe* to be guilty, that their next enquiry ſhould be as to the guilt of *Beddingfield:* that the charge againſt her is as a principal in the murder, in being preſent, aiding, and abetting; that altho' ſhe was not actually preſent in the ſame room at the time, yet if they were ſatisfied that ſhe was previouſly apprized of *Ringe*'s intention, and knew of and was conſenting to the fact at the time it was committed (of which they muſt judge by conſidering the whole circumſtances diſcloſed upon the evidence relating to her, as well prior as poſterior to the fact, and eſpecially the circumſtances concomitant, viz. her ſituation at the very time, and what was then or immediately after ſaid to or by her) ſhe would then be guilty of the charge againſt her as a principal, as laid in the preſent indict-

ment,

ment, in being preſent, aiding, and abetting, though in fact ſhe were only in the next room at the time, and not in the very room where the fact was done.

Clerk of Arraigns.

Gentlemen of the jury, are you agreed on your verdict? who ſhall ſay for you?

A. Foreman.

Richard Ringe, hold up your hand. Gentlemen, look upon the priſoner; how ſay you, is *Richard Ringe* guilty of the felony, treaſon, and murder, whereof he ſtands indicted, or not guilty?

Jury.] Guilty.

Margery Beddingfield, hold up your hand. Gentlemen, look upon the priſoner, how ſay you, is *Margery Beddingfield* guilty of the felony, treaſon, and murder, whereof ſhe ſtands indicted, or not guilty?

Jury.] Guilty.

Clerk of Arraigns.] Hearken to your verdicts as the court hath recorded them. You ſay they are ſeverally guilty; thoſe are your verdicts; and ſo you ſay all.

Clerk of Arraigns.] *Richard Ringe*, hold up your hand. You ſtand convicted of felony, treaſon, and murder, what can you now ſay for yourſelf why the court ſhould not give judgment againſt you to die according to law, and why execution of that judgment ſhould not be awarded againſt you?

Clerk

Clerk of Arraigns.] *Margery Beddingfield*, hold up your hand. You ſtand convicted of felony, treaſon, and murder, what can you now ſay for yourſelf why the court ſhould not give judgment againſt you to die according to law, and why execution of that judgment ſhould not be awarded againſt you?

Cryer.] *Oyez!* My lords the king's juſtices do ſtrictly charge and command all manner of perſons to keep ſilence while ſentence of death is paſſing on the priſoners at the bar, upon pain of impriſonment.

Judgment.

You *Richard Ringe* are to be taken from hence to the place from whence you came, and from thence to be drawn to the place of execution on *Saturday* next, where you are to be hanged by the neck until you be dead, and your body is to be diſſected and anatomized, and the Lord have mercy upon your ſoul!

You *Margery Beddingfield* are to be taken from hence to the place from whence you came, and from thence to be drawn to the place of execution on *Saturday* next, where you are to be burnt until you be dead, and the Lord have mercy upon your ſoul!

Richard Ringe, ſome Days before his Execution, made the following voluntary Confeſſion,

THAT he had lived with his maſter, *John Beddingfield*, about ſix months before his miſtreſs, *Margery Beddingfield*, took any particular notice of him ——That then ſhe became fond of him—and at length told him, ſhe could not be eaſy till her huſband was dead, that ſhe might marry him——That it was ſome time before he paid much regard to what ſhe ſaid; but at length he did, and it was agreed between them that his maſter ſhould be murdered——That his firſt deſign of doing it was by poiſon; and in order to it, he bought ſome arſenick of an apothecary at *Aldeburgh*. ——That he did apply to *Elizabeth Riches*, his fellow-ſervant, to give his maſter the poiſon, and that ſhe refuſed to give it him——That he afterwards attempted to poiſon him, by putting the arſenick into ſome water, which he was ſent to fetch from a pond, and which was to be mixed with other water, to cool it for his maſter to drink, to work off a vomit he had taken——That he put the arſenick into the cup in which he had got the water; and that he did it as he was returning from the pond——That the water he brought

brought from the pond, being mixed with other water, ſome of it was given to his maſter to drink——That his maſter drank a little of the water; but obſerving ſomething in it at the bottom of the cup, he refuſed drinking the whole of it——That he did not believe his maſter thought at all of there being any poiſon in the water.

He confeſſed he took no other ſteps to deſtroy his maſter, until the night in which he murdered him. ——That it had been agreed between his miſtreſs and him, that his maſter ſhould not lie with his miſtreſs, but ſhould lie alone in the parlour-chamber, to give him an opportunity of murdering his maſter.—— That his maſter had laid from his miſtreſs two or three nights before he made any attempt upon him.—— That in the fore part of the night in which he murdered his maſter, *James Scarlet* had been drinking with him; and that as they drank freely, though not to be fuddled, he thought he could eaſily overcome him that night; and reſolved it——That he believed his maſter was to have laid alone in the parlour-chamber, and his miſtreſs alone in the kitchen-chamber, and had no ſuſpicion of *Elizabeth Cleobald's* laying with his miſtreſs.——That he went to bed about ten o'clock——That *William Maſterſon*, and another boy, went to bed at the ſame time——That they laid in the ſame room with him, but in another bed——That he pulled off only his coat and waiſt-coat, and ſhoes, and laid down in his bed with his breeches and ſtockings on——That he laid awake,

and liſtened to hear his maſter going to bed——That he heard him go to bed —— That he laid in his bed till ſuch time as he thought his maſter might be aſleep — which was about half an hour.——That he then got up, did not put on his coat or waiſtcoat, but went dreſſed, as he laid down in his bed, into the parlour-chamber, where his maſter laid——That he was obliged to go through the kitchen-chamber, where his miſtreſs laid——That he found the door out of the kitchen-chamber into the parlour-chamber open —— That when he was by his maſter's bedſide he found him aſleep.—That he ſtood by the bedſide almoſt a quarter of an hour before he could lay hold of him. — That he then threw himſelf upon him, and catched hold of the fore part of his throat — he believes he catched hold of his throat with his left hand. — That he thereby endeavoured to ſtrangle him. — That his maſter ſtruggled very much, and in ſtruggling they both fell off the bed. — That by the fall he loſt his hold — but immediately afterwards catched hold of him again in the ſame place, and thereby ſoon killed him. — That his maſter made ſome groaning noiſe before he died, but it was ſoon over. — That by their fall off the bed, the curtain rod was bent down. — That as ſoon as he had murdered his maſter, he went to his miſtreſs's bedſide, and told her, *He had done for him.* That ſhe replied, *Then I am eaſy.* — That he found *Elizabeth Cleobald* in bed with his miſtreſs — That he ſtaid but little time in his miſtreſs's room. — That his miſtreſs bid him go to his own bed, and he ſhould be called up again. — That he went and laid down in his

his bed, without pulling his breeches or ſtockings off. — That he was ſoon afterwards called up again by *Elizabeth Riches*. — That he had not been aſleep. — That on being called by her, he ſat up in his bed about a minute, and then got out of bed, and went into *Elizabeth Riches*'s room, where he found his miſtreſs, and *Elizabeth Cleobald*, with *Elizabeth Riches*. — That to prevent *Elizabeth Riches* having any ſuſpicion of what had been done, his miſtreſs pretended to be frightened at a noiſe ſhe had heard in the parlour-chamber. — That he was deſired to go into the parlour chamber to ſee if any thing was the matter with his maſter. — That he did go, and afterwards returned and told her he was dead. — That his miſtreſs endeavoured to ſhew herſelf much ſurprized, and in ſorrow. — That he then deſired *Elizabeth Riches* to go into the parlour-chamber with him. — That ſhe did go, and he there ſhewed her his maſter lying dead on the floor, at the feet of the bed; and that afterwards he and *William Maſterſon* went into the room, and laid his maſter on the bed.

He alſo confeſſed in general, that the evidence given againſt him by the witneſſes was true, and particularly the converſation which paſſed in the ſhop between him, his miſtreſs, and *Elizabeth Cleobald*. He ſaid, after his maſter's death he became criminally acquainted with his miſtreſs; — that he had not been ſo before. — That his miſtreſs was very fond of him for a fortnight or three weeks after his maſter's death, but then ſhe began to diſlike him, and afterwards ſeemed to hate him. He ſaid he did not, at any time after he committed the murder, believe he ſhould eſcape, and acknow-

knowledged that he ought to die for it. He talked with much compoſure upon the manner of his being to die, but appeared to be ſhocked at the thoughts of being diſſected. He declared neither *Elizabeth Cleobald*, *Elizabeth Riches*, or *William Maſterſon*, were privy to the murder.

This confeſſion was taken by the attorney concerned in the proſecution on the behalf of the crown, in the preſence of a ſurgeon, whom *Ringe* entreated to take his his body.

Margery Beddingfield perſiſted in her innocence till a ſhort time before her execution.——Upon her being told that *Ringe* had made a confeſſion, ſhe expreſſed her reſentment againſt him for it — but at laſt ſhe confeſſed as follows:

"That ſhe was guilty; that ſhe deſerved to die, for "having been too much privy to the murder of her "huſband, and having held converſation with "*Ringe* for that purpoſe, for three months before."

They were both executed, purſuant to their ſentence, at *Ruſhmere*, near *Ipſwich*, on *Friday* the eighth of *April*, 1763.

Margery Beddingfield was not twenty-one years of age, had been married four years, had lived happily with her huſband, and had one daughter by him, which is living. *Richard Ringe* was about twenty-two years of age.

FINIS.